

Are they against the part that would make it easier for parents to save for their children's education? Are they against the part that would make it easier for workers to obtain health insurance? Are they against reducing the marriage penalty? Are they against doing away with the death tax? Or are they against the part which reduces the tax on capital gains, the part of the tax code which has perhaps the greatest impact on whether the American economy is a job-producing machine.

Who will come forth and explain what part of the Republican tax proposal offends liberal sensibilities? Let me tell my colleagues I think all of it offends them because they want every penny they can get for more government and bigger government.

I am not surprised that a liberal President wants to veto this true tax relief package.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CALVERT). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

VETERANS' MILLENNIUM HEALTH CARE ACT

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2116) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of extended care services for veterans and to make other improvements in health care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2116

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS; REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Millennium Health Care Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents; references to title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—ACCESS TO CARE

Sec. 101. Extended care services.

Sec. 102. Reimbursement for emergency treatment.

Sec. 103. Eligibility for care of combat-injured veterans.

Sec. 104. Access to care for military retirees.

Sec. 105. Benefits for persons disabled by participation in compensated work therapy program.

Sec. 106. Pilot program of medical care for certain dependents of enrolled veterans.

Sec. 107. Enhanced services program at designated medical centers.

Sec. 108. Counseling and treatment for veterans who have experienced sexual trauma.

TITLE II—PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 201. Medical care collections.

Sec. 202. Health Services Improvement Fund.

Sec. 203. Veterans Tobacco Trust Fund.

Sec. 204. Authority to accept funds for education and training.

Sec. 205. Extension and revision of certain authorities.

Sec. 206. State Home grant program.

Sec. 207. Expansion of enhanced-use lease authority.

Sec. 208. Ineligibility for employment by Veterans Health Administration of health care professionals who have lost license to practice in one jurisdiction while still licensed in another jurisdiction.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 301. Review of proposed changes to operation of medical facilities.

Sec. 302. Patient services at Department facilities.

Sec. 303. Report on assisted living services.

Sec. 304. Chiropractic treatment.

Sec. 305. Designation of hospital bed replacement building at Ioannis A. Lougaris Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Reno, Nevada.

TITLE IV—CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MATTERS

Sec. 401. Authorization of major medical facility projects.

Sec. 402. Authorization of major medical facility leases.

Sec. 403. Authorization of appropriations.

(c) REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—ACCESS TO CARE

SEC. 101. EXTENDED CARE SERVICES.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE EXTENDED CARE SERVICES.—(1) Chapter 17 is amended by inserting after section 1710 the following new section:

"§ 1710A. Extended care services

"(a) The Secretary (subject to section 1710(a)(4) of this title and subsection (c) of this section) shall operate and maintain a program to provide extended care services to eligible veterans in accordance with this section. Such services shall include the following:

"(1) Geriatric evaluation.

"(2) Nursing home care (A) in facilities operated by the Secretary, and (B) in community-based facilities through contracts under section 1720 of this title.

"(3) Domiciliary services under section 1710(b) of this title.

"(4) Adult day health care under section 1720(f) of this title.

"(5) Such other noninstitutional alternatives to nursing home care, including those described in section 1720C of this title, as the Secretary considers reasonable and appropriate.

"(6) Respite care under section 1720B of this title.

"(b)(1) In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide extended care services which the Secretary determines are needed (A) to any veteran in need of such care for a service-connected disability, and (B) to any veteran who is in need of such care and who has a service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or more.

"(2) The Secretary, in making placements for nursing home care in Department facilities, shall give highest priority to veterans (A) who are in need of such care for a service-connected disability, or (B) who have a service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or more. The Secretary shall ensure that a veteran described in this subsection who continues to need nursing home care shall not after placement in a Department nursing home be transferred from the facility without the consent of the veteran, or, in the event the veteran cannot provide informed consent, the representative of the veteran.

"(c)(1) The Secretary, in carrying out subsection (a), shall prescribe regulations governing the priorities for the provision of nursing home care in Department facilities so as to ensure that priority for such care is given (A) for patient rehabilitation, (B) for clinically complex patient populations, and (C) for patients for whom there are not other suitable placement options.

"(2) The Secretary may not furnish extended care services for a non-service-connected disability other than in the case of a veteran who has a service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or more unless the veteran agrees to pay to the United States a copayment for extended care services of more than 21 days in any year.

"(d)(1) A veteran who is furnished extended care services under this chapter and who is required under subsection (c)(2) to pay an amount to the United States in order to be furnished such services shall be liable to the United States for that amount.

"(2) In implementing subsection (c)(2), the Secretary shall develop a methodology for establishing the amount of the copayment for which a veteran described in subsection (c) is liable. That methodology shall provide for—

"(A) establishing a maximum monthly copayment (based on all income and assets of the veteran and the spouse of such veteran);

"(B) protecting the spouse of a veteran from financial hardship by not counting all of the income and assets of the veteran and spouse (in the case of a spouse who resides in the community) as available for determining the copayment obligation; and

"(C) allowing the veteran to retain a monthly personal allowance.

"(e)(1) There is established in the Treasury of the United States a revolving fund known as the Department of Veterans Affairs Extended Care Fund (hereinafter in this section referred to as the 'fund'). Amounts in the fund shall be available, without fiscal year limitation and without further appropriation, exclusively for the purpose of providing extended care services under subsection (a).

"(2) All amounts received by the Department under this section shall be deposited in or credited to the fund."

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1710 the following new item:

"1710A. Requirement to provide extended care."

(b) REQUIREMENT TO INCREASE EXTENDED CARE SERVICES.—(1) Not later than January